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**Hawthorne et al.**

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(54) **GENOME SHARING**

USPC ..... 707/999.102, 730, 790, 999.001, 802  
See application file for complete search history.

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**G06F 15/16** (2006.01)

**G06F 17/30** (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**

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CPC ..... G06F 17/30867

(Continued)

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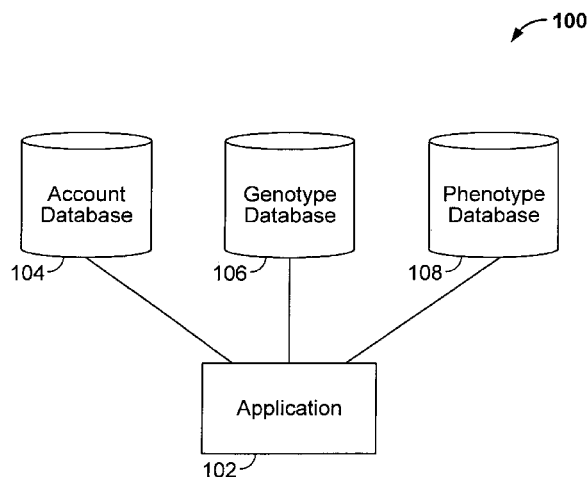
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(57)

**ABSTRACT**

Sharing data is disclosed. In some cases, sharing data includes receiving a request to share data from a first account to a second account, receiving an indication of a plurality of first account profiles associated with the first account to share with the second account, and establishing sharing from the plurality of first account profiles to the second account, wherein sharing comprises the second account having read access to a subset of nonpublic data associated with the plurality of first account profiles.

**17 Claims, 16 Drawing Sheets**



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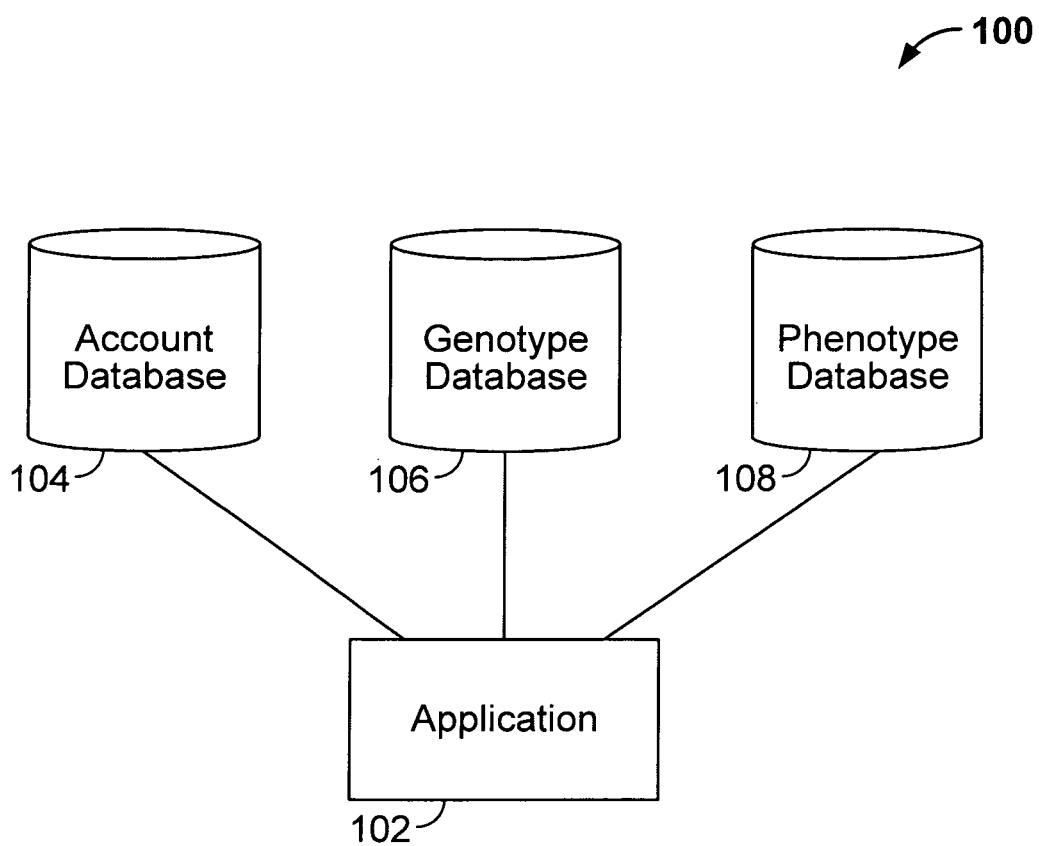
2005/0164704 A1\* 7/2005 Winsor ..... 455/432.3  
 2007/0027917 A1\* 2/2007 Ariel ..... G06Q 10/109  
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**FIG. 1A**

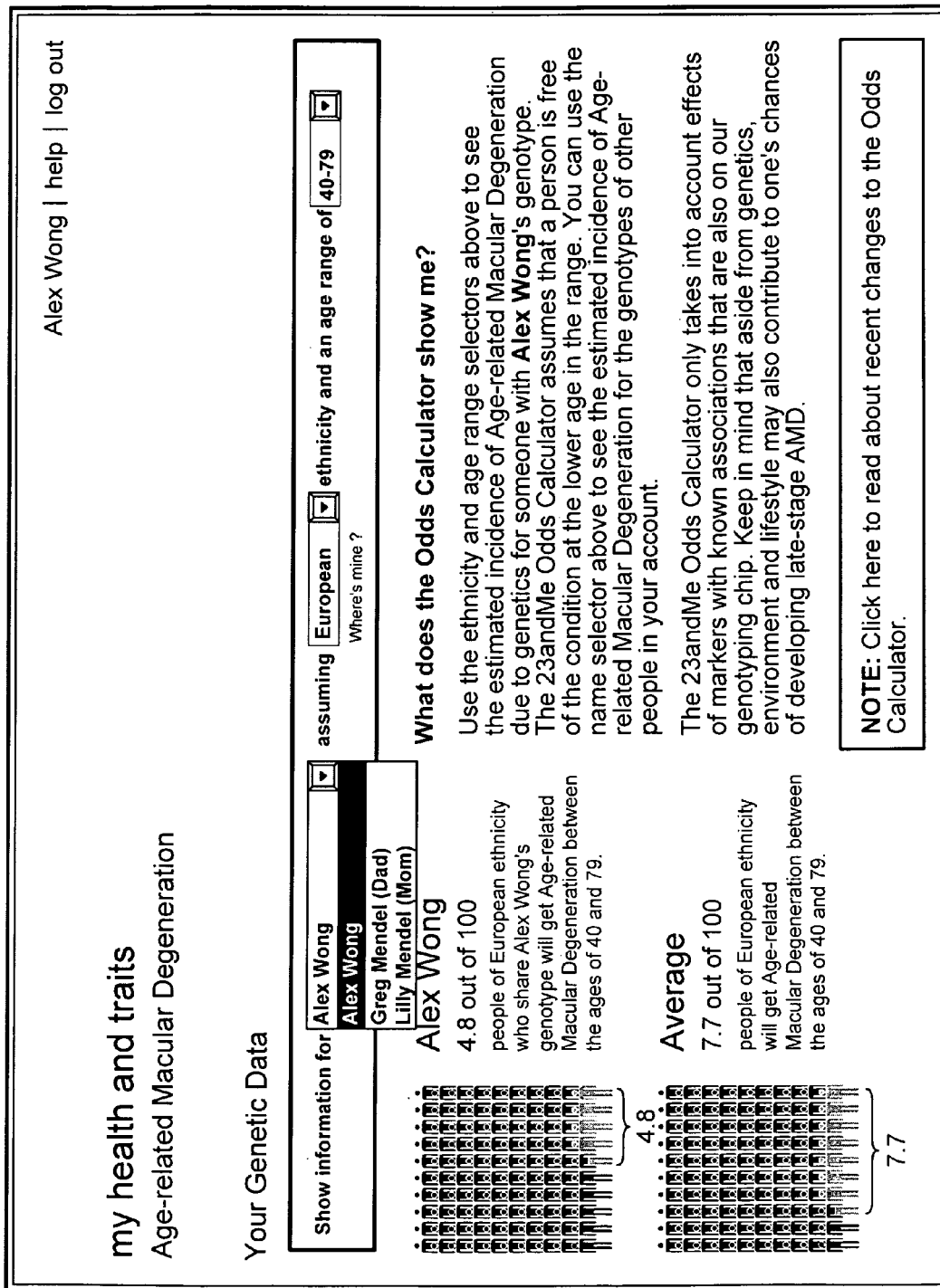


FIG. 1B

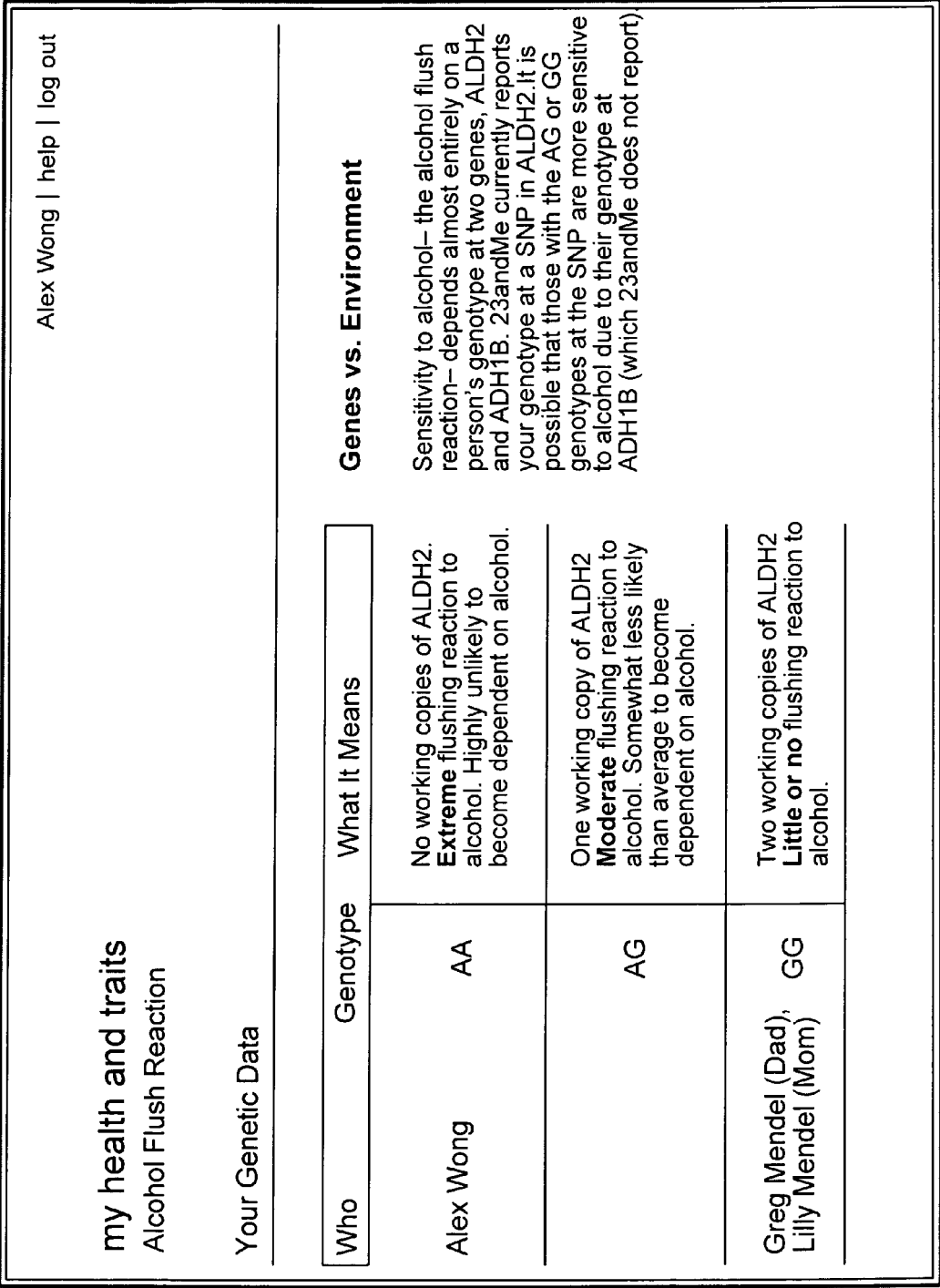


FIG. 1C

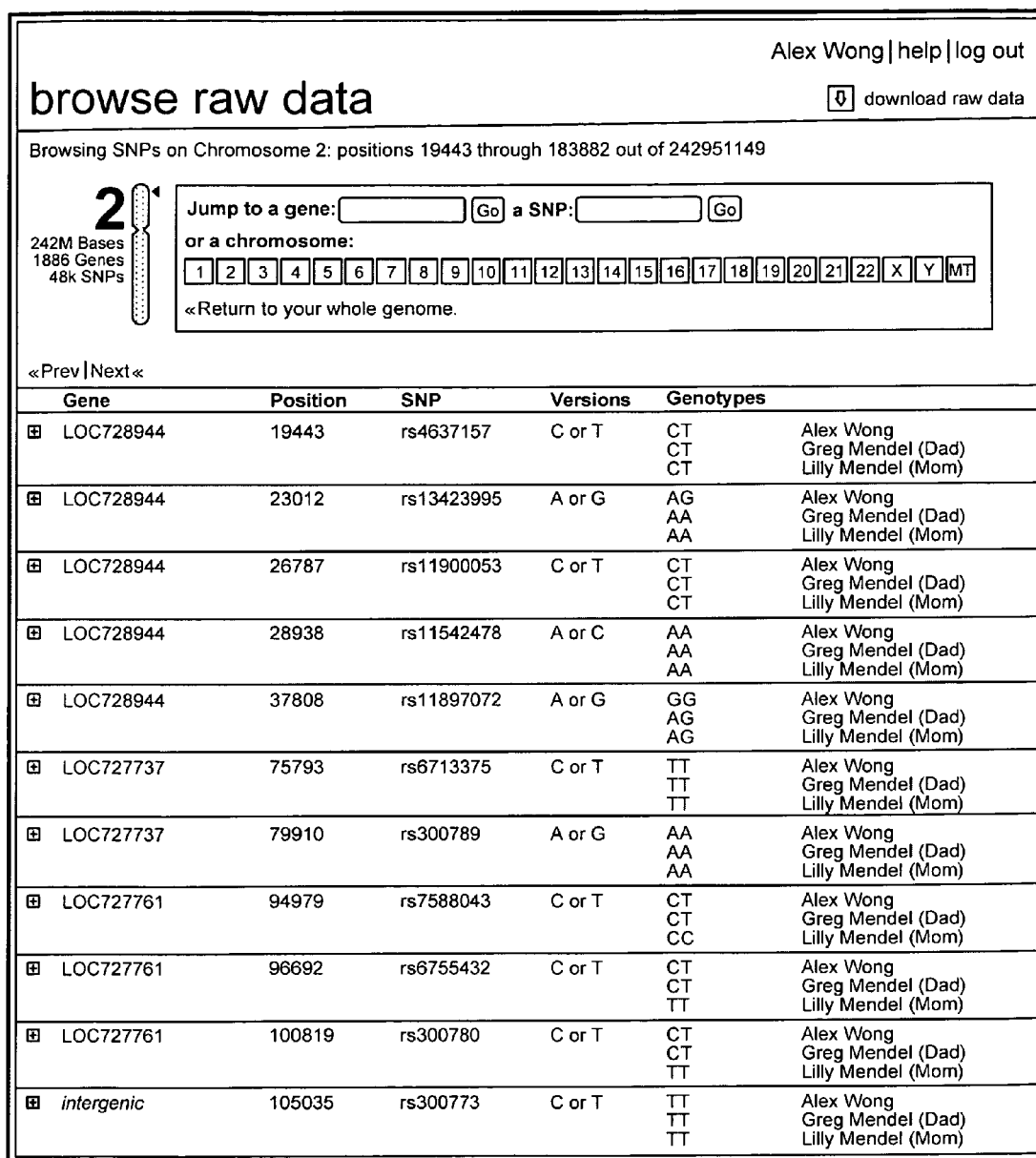
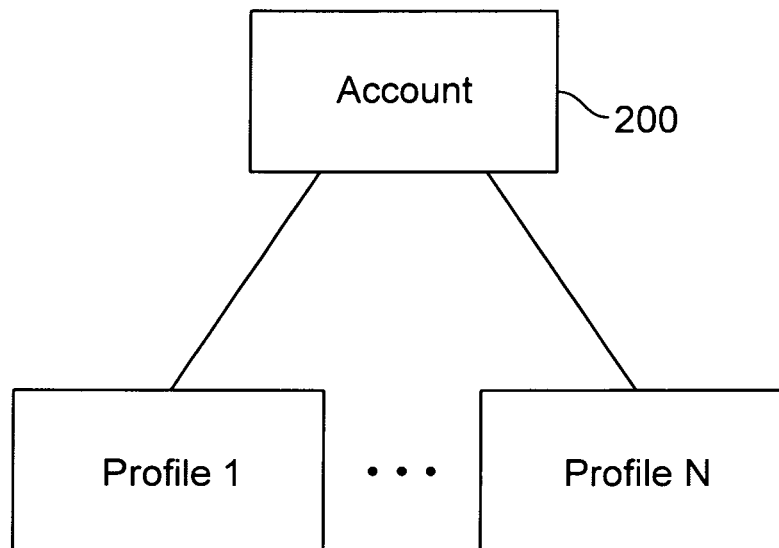


FIG. 1D

**FIG. 2**

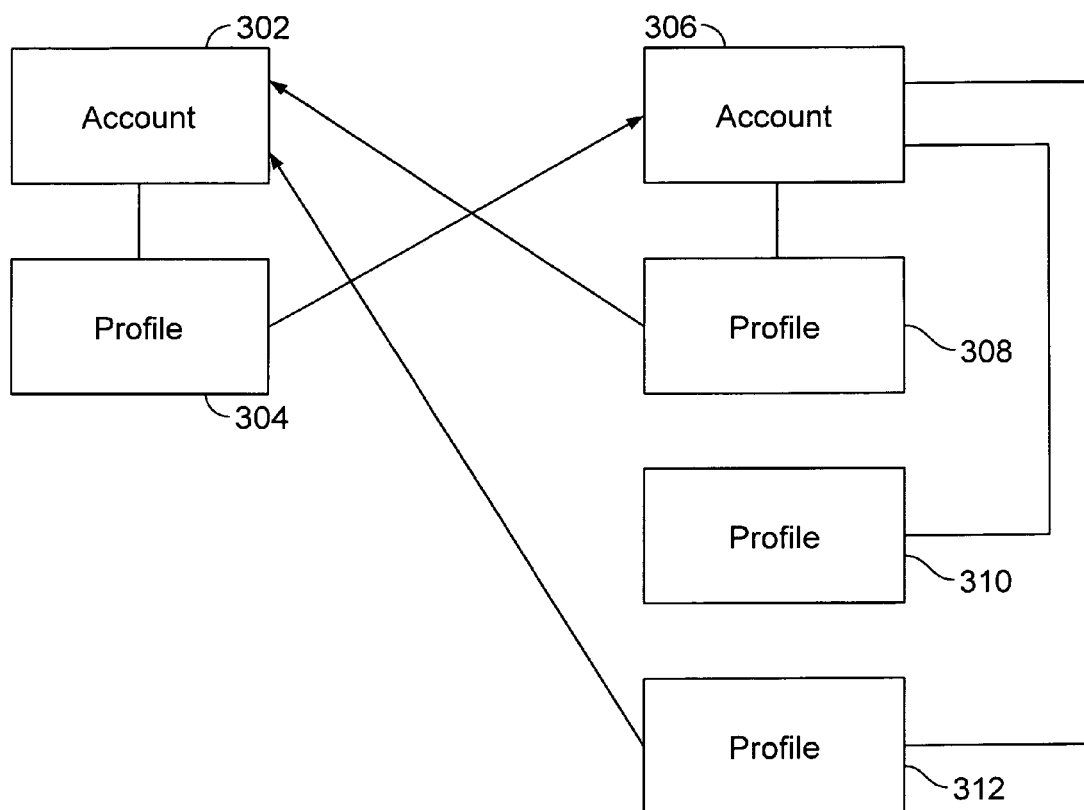


FIG. 3



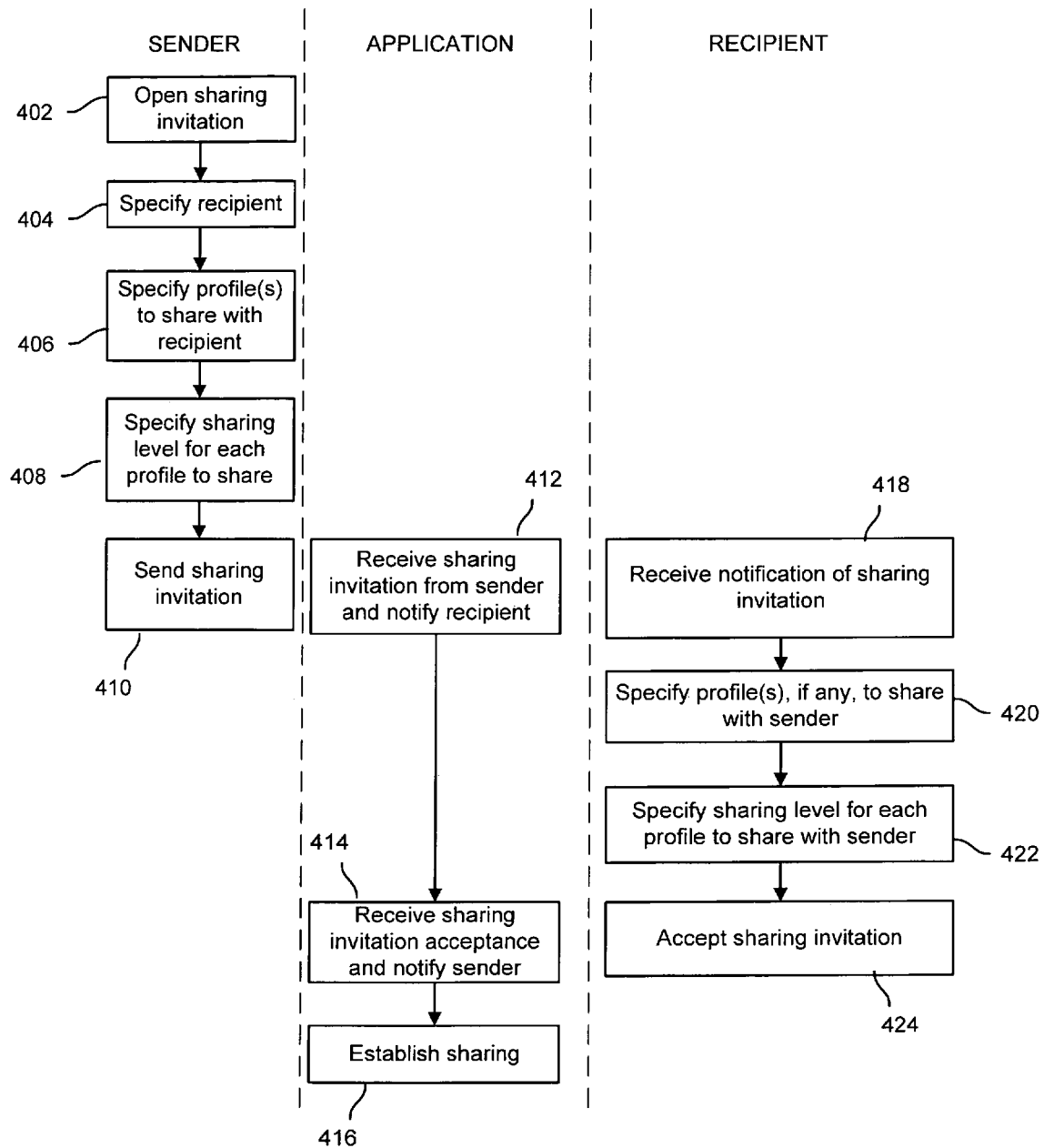


FIG. 4

close or Esc Key

**Invite People to Share Genomes**

To share with friends or family, ask or search for their 23andMe usernames and enter them below. What will I be sharing?

Username:

502

To invite multiple people at once, add commas between usernames.

Profiles:

☒ Ian Mendel

Level:

☒ Basic

☐ Complete

Message text:

Let's share our profiles on 23andMe and compare our genomes.

Maximum message length is 500 characters.

invite

FIG. 5



pending invitations			
my profiles > genome sharing > pending invitations			
Received Invitations			
From	Message	Action	Date
 Alex Wong alex@23andme.com	Let's share our profiles on 23andMe and compare our genomes.		3/17/08
<b>Their Profiles</b> Alex Wong has invited you to view these profiles: Alex Wong			
<b>Sharing Level</b> Alex Wong has requested sharing level Basic 			
<b>Your Profiles</b> Select one or more of your profiles to share back with this user. What will I be sharing? <input type="checkbox"/> Ian Mendel <input type="checkbox"/> Lilly Mendel			
<div>OK</div> <div>Cancel</div>			
Sent Invitations			
To	Profiles Shared	Action	Date
You have no outstanding invitations.			

FIG. 6

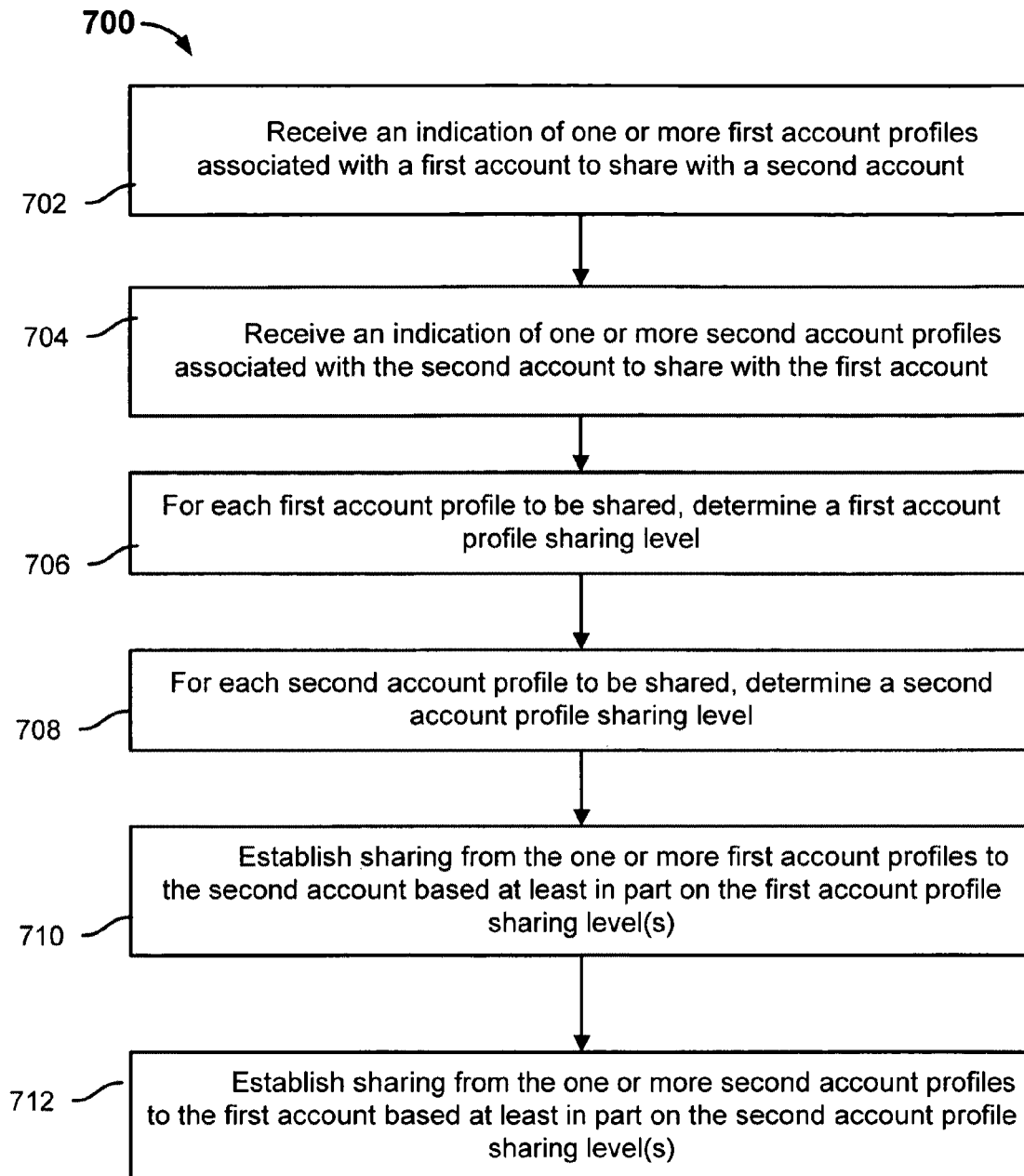


FIG. 7

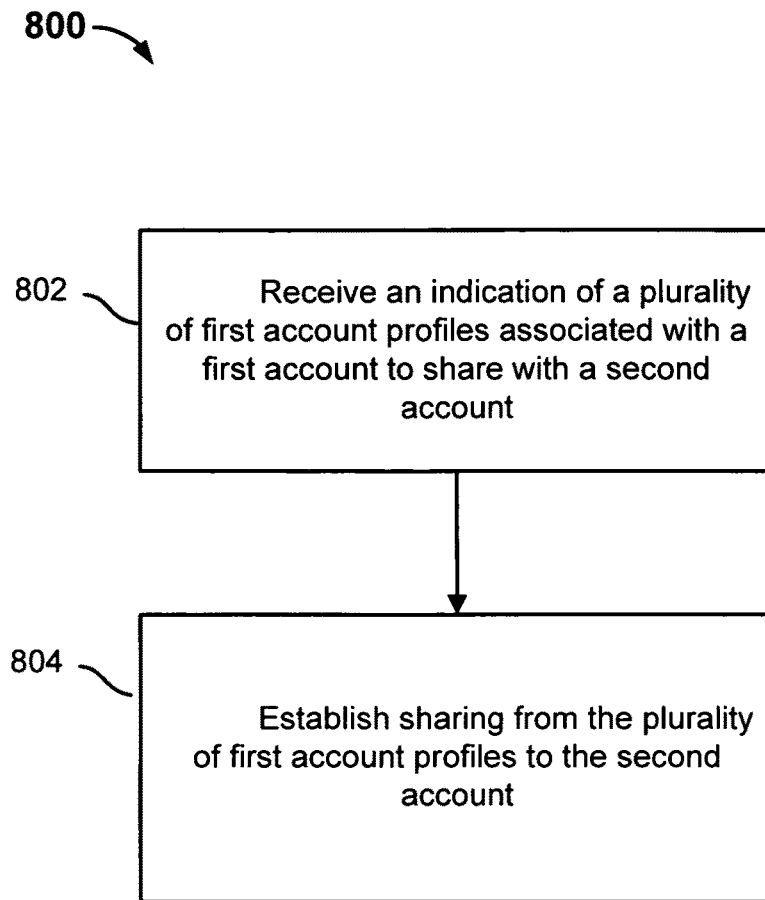


FIG. 8

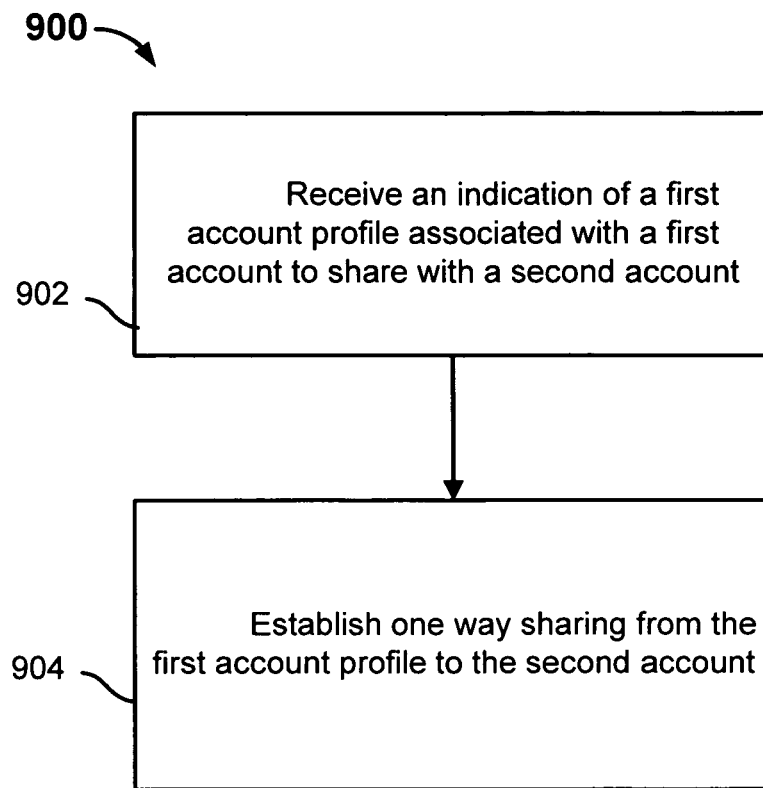


FIG. 9

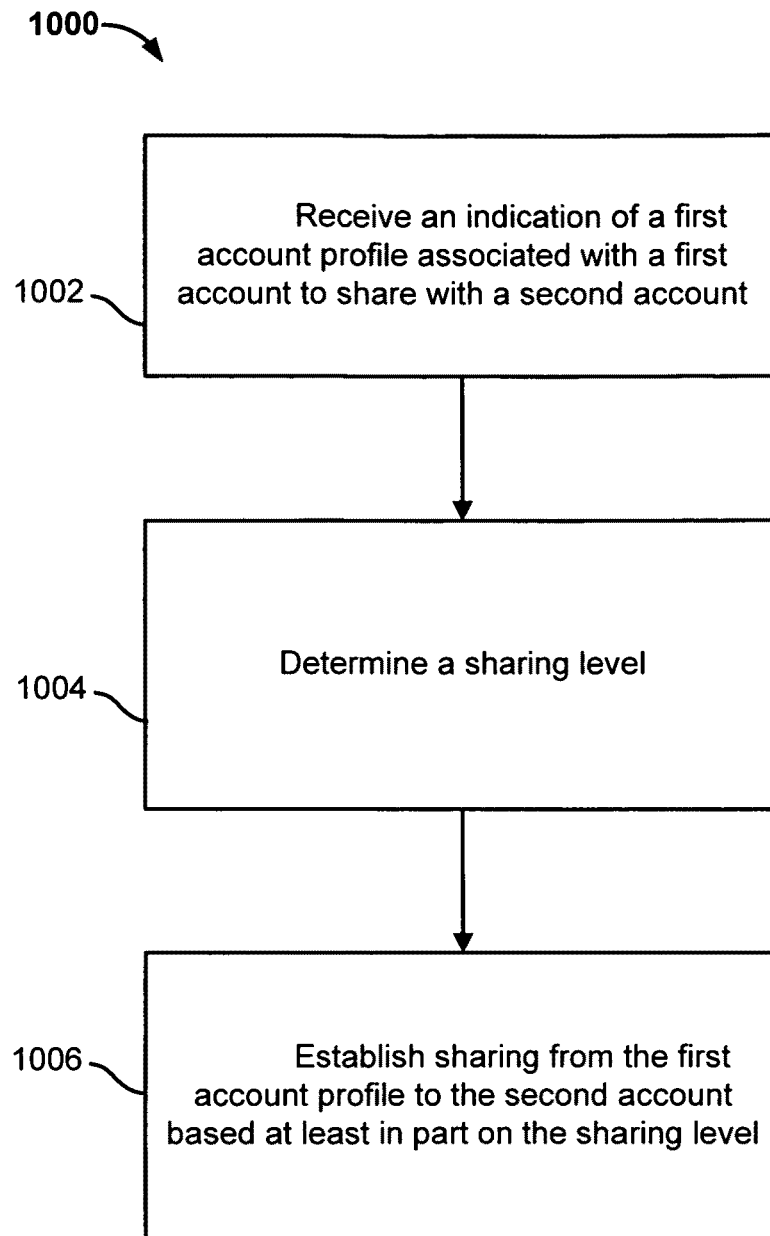


FIG. 10

Account Records 1101

ACCOUNT ID	ACCOUNT USERNAME	PASSWORD	ACCOUNT NAME	ACCOUNT EMAIL ADDRESS	SHIPPING ADDRESS
50001	familydoe	password_x	The Doe Family	john@doe.com	5 Market St., San Francisco, CA 94132
50002	boblee	password_y	Bob Lee	bob@lee.com	P.O. Box 8, New York, NY 10027
...	...	...	...	...	...

Profile Records 1102

PROFILE ID	ACCOUNT ID	PROFILE NAME	PROFILE EMAIL ADDRESS	BIRTHDATE	BIRTHPLACE	CURRENT LOCATION	ANCESTRY
10001	50001	John Doe	john@doe.com	11/15/1975	San Francisco	San Francisco	European
10002	50001	Mary Doe	mary@doe.com	9/7/1977	Los Angeles	San Francisco	European
10003	50002	Bob Lee	bob@lee.com	2/4/1968	New York	New York	Asian
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

FIG. 11A



**Phenotype Records 1104**

PHENOTYPE ID	HEIGHT	WEIGHT	EYE COLOR	HAIR COLOR	...
20001	5'5"	120 lb	Blue	Brown	
20002					
20003	5'10"	170 lb	Brown	Brown	
20004					
20005					
...	...	...	...	...	...

**Genotype Records 1106**

GENOTYPE ID	SNP DATA	TEST RESULT 1	TEST RESULT 2	...
30001		Yes		
30002		No		
30003	SNP_x	No	0.8	
30004	SNP_y	Yes	0.14	
...	...	...	...	...

**FIG. 11B**

**Sharing Table 1200**

ACCOUNT SHARED TO	PROFILE SHARED FROM	SHARING LEVEL
50002	10001	Basic
50002	10002	Extended
...	...	...

**FIG. 12**

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**GENOME SHARING****CROSS REFERENCE TO OTHER APPLICATIONS**

This application claims priority to U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 61/070,321 entitled GENOME SHARING filed Mar. 19, 2008 and to U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/999,148 entitled GENETIC INFORMATION SITE filed Oct. 15, 2007 and to U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/999,064 entitled GENOME EXPLORER filed Oct. 15, 2007, each of which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety for all purposes.

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

Recently, interest in genetics and genetic testing has risen as increasing amounts of research show how an individual's genetic information can influence aspects of a person's ancestry, appearance, behavior, and physiology. Genetic information can be made available to an individual via the Internet. To prevent others from viewing personal data, the individual is typically required to login using a password in order to gain access to his data. In some cases, an individual may wish to share his personal data with one or more other individuals, such as family members. However, current techniques for sharing personal data are basic and have limited capability. As such, improvements in the sharing of personal data would be useful.

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

Various embodiments of the invention are disclosed in the following detailed description and the accompanying drawings.

FIG. 1A is a block diagram illustrating an embodiment of a system for sharing genetic or other data.

FIGS. 1B-1D illustrate examples embodiments of interfaces for displaying genetic data from multiple users.

FIG. 2 is a block diagram illustrating an embodiment of an account in a web application that allows sharing of personal data.

FIG. 3 is a block diagram illustrating an embodiment of sharing of personal data.

FIG. 4 is a flow chart illustrating an embodiment of a process for initiating and establishing sharing.

FIG. 5 is a diagram illustrating an example of an interface for a sharing invitation.

FIG. 6 is a diagram illustrating an example of an interface for responding to a sharing invitation.

FIG. 7 is a flow chart illustrating an embodiment of a process for establishing sharing.

FIG. 8 is a flow chart illustrating an embodiment of a process for establishing sharing of multiple profiles.

FIG. 9 is a flow chart illustrating an embodiment of a process of establishing one way or unidirectional sharing.

FIG. 10 is a flow chart illustrating an embodiment of a process for establishing sharing using sharing level(s).

FIGS. 11A-11B are diagrams illustrating an embodiment of records in various databases in a system for sharing genetic or other data.

FIG. 12 is a diagram illustrating an embodiment of a sharing table.

**DETAILED DESCRIPTION**

The invention can be implemented in numerous ways, including as a process; an apparatus; a system; a composition

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of matter; a computer program product embodied on a computer readable storage medium; and/or a processor, such as a processor configured to execute instructions stored on and/or provided by a memory coupled to the processor. In this specification, these implementations, or any other form that the invention may take, may be referred to as techniques. In general, the order of the steps of disclosed processes may be altered within the scope of the invention. Unless stated otherwise, a component such as a processor or a memory described as being configured to perform a task may be implemented as a general component that is temporarily configured to perform the task at a given time or a specific component that is manufactured to perform the task. As used herein, the term 'processor' refers to one or more devices, circuits, and/or processing cores configured to process data, such as computer program instructions.

A detailed description of one or more embodiments of the invention is provided below along with accompanying figures that illustrate the principles of the invention. The invention is described in connection with such embodiments, but the invention is not limited to any embodiment. The scope of the invention is limited only by the claims and the invention encompasses numerous alternatives, modifications and equivalents. Numerous specific details are set forth in the following description in order to provide a thorough understanding of the invention. These details are provided for the purpose of example and the invention may be practiced according to the claims without some or all of these specific details. For the purpose of clarity, technical material that is known in the technical fields related to the invention has not been described in detail so that the invention is not unnecessarily obscured.

FIG. 1A is a block diagram illustrating an embodiment of a system for sharing genetic or other data. In the example shown, system 100 is shown to include application 102, account database 104, genotype database 106 and phenotype database 108. Application 102 interacts with account database 104, genotype database 106 and phenotype database 108 to access data associated with an individual. Account database 104 contains identifying data associated with individuals, such as names, addresses, etc. Genotype database 106 contains data associated with the individuals' genetics, such as single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) data, including calls for various SNPs or genetic test results. Phenotype database 108 includes data associated with the individuals' phenotypes, such as hair color, eye color, birth date, or medical conditions. Phenotype data can be obtained based on user survey(s) or other interactive tools. A phenotype includes any observable characteristic of an organism, such as its morphology, development, biochemical or physiological properties, or behavior. Phenotypes are influenced by a combination of genetic and environmental factors.

In some embodiments, application 102 is a web application that is part of a website that allows individuals to view their genetic and other personal data. An example of such a website is [www.23andme.com](http://www.23andme.com). An individual may use such a website to ascertain descriptions of certain traits he has and the genes associated with them. For example, the website [www.23andme.com](http://www.23andme.com) provides an odds calculator that can combine genetic and phenotypic information, age, and ethnicity to get an idea of which common health concerns are most likely to affect the individual. Such an odds calculator may be used by an individual to determine information for an individual such as his likelihood of developing type 2 diabetes. Additionally, such a website may allow an individual to determine if he has a particular gene, such as the one that allows for tasting the bitter flavor of broccoli.

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In some embodiments, application **102** allows an individual to share at least a subset of his genetic and other personal data with other users. FIGS. 1B-1D illustrate examples embodiments of interfaces for displaying genetic data from multiple users. For example, in FIGS. 1B-1C, a user may view descriptions of traits or odds associated with different health concerns associated with other individuals. In another example, FIG. 1D, a “Genome Browser” interface allows a user to view his raw genome data and the raw genome data of other individuals with which sharing of raw genome data has been established. In some embodiments, the raw genome data for multiple individuals are displayed together.

Although databases, records, fields, rows, and columns may be described herein, in various embodiments, any appropriate technique for storing data may be used. A database is an example of a set of stored data. In various embodiments, any appropriate set of stored data may be used besides a database. A set of stored data may include a data repository or data store, such as a database or a file. A set of stored data may include one or more data structures, such as records, rows, or objects.

FIG. 2 is a block diagram illustrating an embodiment of an account in a web application that allows sharing of personal data. In some embodiments, account **200** is stored in account database **104**. In the example shown, an individual (e.g., John Doe) signs up for an account **200** in the web application by specifying a username, password, security question, and birth date. In some embodiments, terms of service (TOS) are displayed and a user must agree to the TOS in order to sign up for an account. In order to access the account in the web application, the username and password must be specified. An account can own 0 or more profiles. Each profile is associated with a different individual or human being. For example, profiles 1-3 might be for John Doe, Mary Doe (his wife), and Bobby Doe (his son), respectively. In the example shown, N profiles are owned by account **200**. Stated another way, account **200** owns N profiles. In some embodiments, anyone with access to account **200** has read and/or write access to (i.e., is able to or has permission to view and/or modify) any of profiles 1-N. In some embodiments, profiles 1-N each contain data associated with an individual, such as name and birthdate, and account **200** contains data that is not specific to an individual, such as an account name (e.g., The Doe Family), an account username (e.g., doefamily) and password.

In some embodiments, a profile may be transferred from one account to another. For example, Mary Doe divorces John Doe and would like to set up her own account to own her profile. As another example, Bobby Doe grows up (e.g., turns 18) and would like to have his profile owned by his own account. In some embodiments, a profile can only be owned by one account, so once Mary Doe’s profile is owned by Mary Doe’s account, then it is no longer owned by John Doe’s account. In some embodiments, a user logs into the doefamily account to request the transfer and a user logs into Mary Doe’s account to accept the transfer. In some embodiments, when the user of the doefamily account requests the transfer, the user must provide a password associated with the destination account and/or answer a secret question.

FIG. 3 is a block diagram illustrating an embodiment of sharing of personal data. In the example shown, account **302** owns profile **304** and account **306** owns profiles **308**, **310**, and **312**. Profiles **308** and **312** are shared with or “shared to” account **302**. Stated another way, sharing has been established from profiles **308** and **312** to account **302**. In other words, account **302** has read access to (e.g., is able to or has permission to view) at least a subset of data associated with profiles **308** and **312**.

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Profile **304** is shared with or “shared to” account **306**. Stated another way, sharing has been established from profile **304** to account **306**. In other words, account **306** has read access to at least a subset of data associated with profile **304**. In some embodiments, certain data associated with a profile is public data; that is, any other account has read access to public data. In such embodiments, when a profile is shared to an account, it means that the account has read access to at least a subset of nonpublic data associated with the profile.

FIG. 4 is a flow chart illustrating an embodiment of a process for initiating and establishing sharing. In some embodiments, process **400** or at least steps **412-416** are performed by application **102**. In some embodiments, steps **402-410** are associated with a first account. For example, a user of the first account causes steps **402-410** to be performed. In some embodiments, steps **418-424** are associated with a second account. For example, a user of the second account causes steps **418-424** to be performed.

In the example shown, at **402**, a sharing invitation is opened. For example, a user logs into a first account and then opens an interface for a sharing invitation. FIG. 5 is a diagram illustrating an example of an interface for a sharing invitation.

At **404**, a recipient is specified. For example, the interface may provide a place to enter a recipient. In FIG. 5, the user can enter or search for usernames using box **502**. In some embodiments, an account user can specify that the account username (e.g., doefamily) and/or account name (e.g., The Doe Family) is searchable. In some embodiments, names and/or email addresses associated with profiles (e.g., John Doe, Mary Doe, and/or Bobby Doe) may be searchable. In some embodiments, the user can search based on other information, such as Current Location, type 1 diabetes risk, etc. In some embodiments, in order for data to be searchable, the data must be made public.

In some embodiments, **404** is performed before **402**. For example, a user’s profile may be publicly represented on the website. For example, if a user has posted a message in a community thread, his or her profile picture and public nickname will be displayed in that thread. Another user may click on the picture or nickname to view the posting user’s profile page. From this page, the other user may initiate a sharing invitation by clicking on an invitation link. In this case, the inviting user does not need to specify the invitee again in the invitation, as it is inherited from the profile page on which the invitation link was clicked. An invitation link may also be found next to the posting user’s picture and nickname, in which case the inviting user can click directly on that link to invite without first going to the invitee’s profile page.

Alternatively, a user’s profile may be found and an invitation sent to them through user search results.

At **406**, profile(s) to share with the recipient are specified. For example, the profiles for John Doe and Mary Doe may be specified. Then the profile for Bobby Doe will not be shared. In FIG. 5, the profile Ian Mendel is the only profile associated with the account and it is selected as the profile to share. In some embodiments, if there is only one profile associated with the account, this step is skipped and the one profile is selected by default. In some embodiments, the sender can select no profiles to share with the recipient.

At **408**, a sharing level for each profile to share is specified. A sharing level indicates a subset of data associated with the profile to share or to which to provide read access. A sharing level may be embodied in various ways. Specific data to share may be individually indicated, or groups of data to be shared may be indicated. In FIG. 5, two sharing levels may be indicated: “Basic” or “Complete”. When “Basic” is selected, then a smaller subset of data is shared than when “Complete” is

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selected. For example, “Basic” might include ancestry and general comparison features, while “Complete” might include detailed health and traits articles and odds calculations, or full SNP-level information in the form of a genome browser. In some embodiments, a sharing level to request from the other account holder is also specified. The user may also request certain profiles from other account. In some embodiments, the sharing level is implicitly symmetric, so that the sharing level from the sender to the recipient is the same as the sharing level from the recipient to the sender. The sender may also attach a personal message to the invitation.

At **410**, the sharing invitation is sent. For example, in FIG. 5, the “invite” button is selected. In some embodiments, the sharing invitation includes the sharing levels specified at **408**.

At **412**, the sharing invitation is received from the sender and the recipient is notified. For example, the web application is notified that the sharing invitation was sent and sends an email to the recipient.

At **418**, a notification of the sharing invitation is received. For example, the recipient receives an email message notifying him that a sharing invitation has been received and to login to his account to respond to it.

At **420**, profile(s) to share with the sender, if any, are specified. For example, the recipient logs into his account and an interface is presented for responding to the invitation. FIG. 6 is a diagram illustrating an example of an interface for responding to a sharing invitation. In this example, Alex Wong is the sender of the invitation and has requested sharing level Basic. The recipient can select one or more profiles to share back with the sender. In some embodiments, the recipient can select no profiles to share back with the sender. In some embodiments, if there is only one profile associated with the account, this step is skipped and the one profile is selected by default.

At **422**, a sharing level for each profile to share back with the sender is specified. In some embodiments, the recipient can specify a sharing level (e.g., Basic or Complete) for each profile to be shared back. (In FIG. 6, this option is not available.)

At **424**, the sharing invitation is accepted. For example, in FIG. 6, the “OK” button is selected.

At **414**, the sharing invitation acceptance is received from the recipient and the sender is notified. For example, the web application is notified that the sharing invitation was accepted and sends an email to the recipient.

At **416**, sharing is established. In some embodiments, before sharing can be established, the sender reconfirms the request by logging into the sender’s account and reconfirming the request. In some cases, the sender may decide not to reconfirm the request, if, for example, at **420**, the sender does not recognize the recipient, who may be a hacker.

In some embodiments, each account only has one profile, so steps **406** and **420** are skipped. In some embodiments, sharing levels are preset and steps **408** and **422** are skipped. In some embodiments, the sharing levels are bidirectional (the same in both directions) so that whatever sharing level is specified at **408** is automatically the sharing level specified at **422**. Thus, step **422** may be skipped and the sharing level preset to the sharing level specified at **408**.

Once sharing is established, sharing levels may change, sharing may be terminated, etc. In some embodiments, sharing is unilaterally stopped. In other words, when the sharing of a first account’s profile to a second account is terminated, then sharing from the second account’s profile to the first account is automatically terminated. In some embodiments,

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either party can terminate sharing. In some embodiments, one or more levels of sharing may be upgraded and/or downgraded.

FIG. 7 is a flow chart illustrating an embodiment of a process for establishing sharing. In some embodiments, process **700** is used to perform steps **412-416**. In the example shown, at **702**, an indication of one or more first account profiles associated with a first account to share with a second account is received. For example, if a user is providing information as in FIG. 4, the profile(s) specified at **406** are received. At **704**, an indication of one or more second account profiles associated with the second account to share with the first account is received. For example, the profile(s) specified at **420** are received. At **706**, for each first account profile to be shared, a first account sharing level is determined. For example, the sharing level(s) specified at **408** are determined. At **708**, for each second account profile to be shared, a second account sharing level is determined. For example, the sharing level(s) specified at **422** are determined. At **710**, sharing is established from the one or more first account profiles to the second account based at least in part on the first account profile sharing level(s). At **712**, sharing from the one or more second account profiles to the first account is established based at least in part on the second account profile sharing level(s). In some embodiments, steps **702-708** result from what a user specifies in a web interface to a web application.

FIG. 8 is a flow chart illustrating an embodiment of a process for establishing sharing of multiple profiles. In some embodiments, process **800** is used to perform steps **412-416**. In the example shown, at **802**, an indication of a plurality of first account profiles associated with a first account to share with a second account is received. At **804**, sharing from the plurality of first account profiles to the second account is established. Sharing comprises the second account having read access to a subset of nonpublic data associated with the plurality of first account profiles.

FIG. 9 is a flow chart illustrating an embodiment of a process of establishing one way or unidirectional sharing. In some embodiments, process **900** is used to perform steps **412-416**. In the example shown, at **902**, an indication of a first account profile associated with a first account to share with a second account is received. At **904**, one way sharing from the first account profile to the second account is established. One way sharing means that the second account has read access to a subset of nonpublic data associated with the second account profile, but the first account does not have read access to nonpublic data associated with the first account. For example, an individual may share the individual’s data with a doctor, but the doctor does not need to share the doctor’s data back to the individual.

FIG. 10 is a flow chart illustrating an embodiment of a process for establishing sharing using sharing level(s). In some embodiments, process **1000** is used to perform step **416**. In the example shown, at **1002**, an indication of a first account profile associated with a first account to share with a second account is received. At **1004**, a sharing level is determined. In some embodiments, the sharing level indicates a subset of data associated with the first account profile to share with the second account. At **1006**, sharing from the first account profile to the second account is established based at least in part on the sharing level. In some embodiments, sharing comprises the second account having read access to the subset of data indicated by the sharing level.

FIGS. 11A-11B are diagrams illustrating an embodiment of records in various databases in a system for sharing genetic or other data. In the example shown, account records **1101** and profile records **1102** are stored in an account database,

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such as account database **104**. Phenotype records **1104** are stored in a phenotype database, such as phenotype database **108**. Genotype records **1106** are stored in a genotype database, such as genotype database **108**.

Referring to FIG. 2, in some embodiments, each account record **1101** is an example of account **200** and each profile record **1102** is an example of one of profiles 1-N.

In the example shown, each account record includes: "Account ID", "Account Username", "Password", "Account Name", "Account Email Address", and "Shipping Address". In some embodiments, "Account ID" uniquely identifies each account record. In some embodiments, the "Password" is encrypted using a hash function.

In some embodiments, profile records **1102** include data that can be used to identify an individual. In some embodiments, each profile record **1102** is associated with a different individual. An individual can be a person or in some embodiments, an animal, such as a pet. Each profile record includes: "Profile ID", "Account ID", "Profile Name", "Profile Email Address", "Birthdate", "Birthplace", "Current Location", and "Ancestry". In some embodiments, "Profile ID" uniquely identifies each profile record.

An account may own or be associated with one or more profile records. In profile records **1102**, "Account ID" indicates the account that owns or is associated with each profile record. As shown, multiple profile records may have the same "Account ID" or be associated with the same account. When a profile is transferred from one account to another account, the "Account ID" of the profile is updated to the new account's "Account ID".

In some embodiments, account records contain data that is not specific to an individual. In some embodiments, profile records contain data associated with an individual. In some embodiments, each account record also includes a "Profiles" field. "Profiles" includes the Profile IDs of the profile records associated with the account.

Referring to FIG. 11B, in the example shown, each phenotype record includes: "Phenotype ID", "Height", "Weight", "Eye Color", and "Hair Color". Other examples of fields that may be included in a phenotype record include medical conditions, such as whether the individual has type 1 diabetes, survey answers, or data collected from interactive tools. In some embodiments, phenotype records **1104** include data associated with the phenotype of an individual. In some embodiments, "Phenotype ID" uniquely identifies each phenotype record.

In the example shown, each genotype record includes: "Genotype ID", "SNP Data", "Test Result 1", and "Test Result 2". In some embodiments, "SNP Data" includes calls for various SNPs and confidence values for the calls for the individual. "Test Result 1" and "Test Result 2" could be results of a genetic test, such as whether the individual can taste bitterness in broccoli, or the individual's type 1 diabetes risk. In some embodiments, "Genotype ID" uniquely identifies each genotype record.

In some embodiments, an application such as application **102** retrieves profile records, phenotype records, and genotype records as needed in order to provide genetic or other data to users over the Internet.

In some embodiments, some of the fields shown in profile records **1102** are stored in separate records in a separate database. For example, the "Birthdate", "Birthplace", and "Ancestry" fields could be stored in biographical records in a biographical database. The biographical records might also include a social security number. This way, should a hacker obtain access to the profile records, he could not determine

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which profile records belong to which biographical records. This may be useful to address concerns of identity theft.

FIG. 12 is a diagram illustrating an embodiment of a sharing table. In some embodiments, a sharing table is used to store sharing information from the various profiles to the various accounts in system **100**. In the example shown, sharing table **1200** includes three columns: "Account Shared To", "Profile Shared From", and "Sharing Level". The first row of sharing table **1200** indicates that the profile **10001** is shared to the account **50002** at a basic sharing level. As shown in FIG. 11A, profile **10001** is associated with account **50001** having username familydoe. Account **50002** is associated with username boblee. Thus, a user of account **50001** has allowed users of account **50002** read access to a subset of nonpublic data in profile **10001**. The subset is specified by the sharing level, in this case Basic. In some embodiments, the Basic sharing level means there is read access to a basic subset of nonpublic data and the Extended sharing level means there is read access to an extended subset of nonpublic data, wherein the extended subset is a superset of the basic subset.

In some embodiments, there are three or more sharing levels available. In some embodiments, the level of sharing can be individually configured at a lower level of granularity. For example, a user may specifically select which data to which to allow read access.

Although the foregoing embodiments have been described in some detail for purposes of clarity of understanding, the invention is not limited to the details provided. There are many alternative ways of implementing the invention. The disclosed embodiments are illustrative and not restrictive.

What is claimed is:

1. A method for sharing data, comprising:

receiving, from a first account, a request to share data with a second account in a web application, wherein:

the first account owns a plurality of first account profiles for a first set of individuals and each first account profile is associated with a different individual of the first set;

the second account owns a plurality of second account profiles for a second set of individuals and each second account profile is associated with a different individual of the second set; and

the request comprises: an indication of a set of selected one or more of the plurality of first account profiles associated with the first account to share with the second account, and a corresponding set of one or more sharing levels associated with the set of selected one or more of the plurality of first account profiles; the set of selected one or more of the plurality of first account profiles is specified by a first user of the first account; and

a sharing level in the corresponding set of one or more sharing levels associated with the set of selected one or more of the plurality of first account profiles indicates a subset of sensitive nonpublic data to be shared from an account profile among the set of selected one or more of the plurality of first account profiles to the second account;

notifying the second account of the request from the first account;

receiving, from the second account, an acceptance of the request to share data, wherein:

the acceptance includes: an indication of a set of selected one or more of the plurality of second account profiles associated with the second account to share with the first account, and a corresponding set of one or more

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sharing levels associated with the set of selected one or more of the plurality of second account profiles; the set of selected one or more of the plurality of the second account profiles is specified by a second user of the second account; and

a sharing level in the corresponding set of one or more sharing levels associated with the set of selected one or more of the plurality of second account profiles indicates a subset of sensitive nonpublic data to be shared from an account profile among the set of selected one or more of the plurality of second account profiles to the first account;

establishing sharing from the set of selected one or more of the plurality of first account profiles to the second account and sharing from the set of selected one or more of the plurality of second account profiles to the first account; and

storing sharing information, including, for a shared profile, information pertaining to an account to which the shared profile is shared and a corresponding sharing level; wherein the first account and the second account do not own the same account profiles.

2. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the data includes genetic data.

3. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the data includes phenotype data.

4. A system for sharing data, comprising:  
one or more databases configured to store:

- a first account associated with a plurality of first account profiles in a web application, wherein each first account profile includes sensitive nonpublic data that includes genetic data; and
- a second account in the web application, wherein: (1) the first account owns a plurality of first account profiles for a first set of individuals and each first account profile is associated with a different individual of the first set; and (2) the second account owns a plurality of second account profiles for a second set of individuals and each second account profile is associated with a different individual of the second set; and one or more processors configured to:

receive, from the first account, a request to share data with a second account in the web application; wherein:

- the request comprises: an indication of a set of selected one or more of the plurality of first account profiles associated with the first account to share with the second account, and a corresponding set of one or more sharing levels associated with the set of selected one or more of the plurality of first account profiles;
- the set of selected one or more of the plurality of first account profiles is specified by a first user of the first account; and
- a sharing level in the set of one or more sharing levels indicates a subset of sensitive nonpublic data to be shared from an account profile among the plurality of first account profiles to the second account;

notify the second account of the request from the first account;

receive, from the second account, an acceptance of the request to share data, wherein:

- the acceptance includes: an indication of a set of selected one or more of the plurality of second account profiles associated with the second account to share with the first account, and a cor-

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responding set of one or more sharing levels associated with the set of selected one or more of the plurality of second account profiles;

the set of selected one or more of the plurality of the second account profiles is specified by a second user of the second account; and

a sharing level associated with the set of selected one or more of the plurality of second account profiles indicates a subset of sensitive nonpublic data to be shared from an account profile among the plurality of second account profiles to the first account;

establish sharing from the set of selected one or more of first account profiles to the second account and sharing from the set of selected one or more of second account profiles to the first account; and

wherein:

- the one or more databases are further configured to store sharing information, including, for a shared profile, information pertaining to an account to which the shared profile is shared and a corresponding sharing level;
- the subset of the sensitive nonpublic data includes genetic data; and
- the first account and the second account do not own the same profiles.

5. A method for sharing data, comprising:

- receiving, from a first account, a request to share data with a second account in a web application wherein the request includes an indication of a first account profile associated with a first account to share with a second account, wherein the first account owns a plurality of first account profiles for a first set of individuals and the first account profile is associated with an individual of the first set;
- notifying the second account of the request from the first account;
- receiving, from the second account, an acceptance of the request to share data;
- establishing sharing from the first account profile to the second account, including:
  - obtaining a sharing level that indicates a subset of sensitive nonpublic data to be shared from the first account profile to the second account, wherein the sharing level is selected by a user of the first account among a plurality of sharing levels that corresponds to a plurality of different subsets of sensitive nonpublic data associated with the first account profile; and
  - based at least in part on the sharing level, giving the second account read access to the corresponding subset of sensitive nonpublic data associated with the first account profile; wherein:
    - the first account does not have read access to nonpublic data associated with the second account;
    - the sensitive nonpublic data includes genetic data; and
    - the first account and the second account do not own the same profiles.

6. The method as recited in claim 5, wherein there are no profiles associated with the second account.

7. The method as recited in claim 5, wherein each profile is associated with a different individual.

8. The method as recited in claim 5, wherein the data includes genetic data.

9. The method as recited in claim 5, wherein the data includes phenotype data.

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10. The method as recited in claim 5, wherein the indication includes an indication of a plurality of first account profiles associated with the first account to share with the second account.

11. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the set of one or more sharing levels associated with the set of selected one or more of the plurality of first account profiles or the set of one or more sharing levels associated with the selected one or more of the plurality of second account profiles includes a basic sharing level associated with a basic set of data and an extended sharing level associated with a superset of the basic set of data.

12. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein each profile is associated with a different individual.

13. The system as recited in claim 4, wherein the data includes genetic data.

14. The system as recited in claim 4, wherein the data includes phenotype data.

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15. The system as recited in claim 4, wherein the first account does not necessarily have read access to nonpublic data associated with the second account.

16. The method of claim 1, wherein the set of one or more sharing levels associated with the set of selected one or more of the plurality of first account profiles is selected among a plurality of sharing levels each indicating a different subset of sensitive nonpublic data to be shared from the account profile among the set of selected one or more of the plurality of first account profiles to the second account.

17. The system of claim 4, wherein the set of one or more sharing levels associated with the set of selected one or more of the plurality of first account profiles is selected among a plurality of sharing levels each indicating a different subset of sensitive nonpublic data to be shared from the account profile among the set of selected one or more of the plurality of first account profiles to the second account.

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